



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE SEIZES MORE THAN FIVE TONS OF MARIJUANA IN TWO TAKEDOWNS

TUCSON — Four men are in federal custody today after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents seized more than 11,000 pounds of marijuana in two separate enforcement actions in Tucson.

Agents conducting surveillance on a warehouse here Wednesday night saw a cargo truck and pickup truck leave the building together. After stopping the vehicles, the agents obtained permission to search them and found a large amount of marijuana hidden in U-Haul wardrobe boxes in the cargo truck.

Agents arrested the two Mexican nationals who were driving the trucks, Benjamin Garcia Cazares, 38, and Francisco Javier Ulloa, 47.

Less than an hour later, ICE agents executed a search warrant at the warehouse at 2005 N. 13th Avenue where they found another cargo truck loaded with marijuana and arrested Francisco Duarte Espejo, 30, also a Mexican national.

The combined weight of the marijuana found in the two cargo trucks was later determined to be more than 8,000 pounds.

The following day, ICE agents executed a search warrant at Ulloa's house where a pickup truck, van, and Lincoln Continental were seized along with additional evidence of narcotics trafficking.

In a separate investigation Wednesday, ICE and Drug Enforcement Administration agents in Tucson followed a van leaving a residence suspected of being used by narcotics traffickers. After the driver tried to evade officers, the agents stopped the van and discovered a large quantity of marijuana. ICE agents seized the van and arrested the driver, who was identified as Jorge Miranda Salazar, 32, a national of Mexico. The weight of the seized marijuana was determined to be more than 3,200 pounds.

"These cases are great examples of ICE's commitment to take traffickers and their cargo off the streets," said Roberto G. Medina, ICE's special agent in charge in Arizona. "We are going to keep the pressure on these criminal enterprises whenever and wherever they come to our attention."

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.